

Quarterly Report 01

Ending 31 March 2008

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SECTION I. Introduction

A. Background

In Haiti, USAID has supported activities designed to spur economic growth and jobs, and to address environmental degradation, for over five decades. While the impact of these investments has often been compromised by political instability, a number of important lessons have been learned. When the political and economic environment has been favorable, Haiti has demonstrated strong potential in assembly and light manufacturing, agribusiness, tourism and handicrafts. USAID has had positive experience with investments in integrated watershed management activities and with development of niche internal and export markets (mangoes, specialty coffee, cacao, non-traditional crops). In particular, USAID investment in agriculture activities has demonstrated strong income potential from practices that also incorporate effective natural resource management.

B. Project Description

The purpose of the Haiti Le Développement Economique pour un Environnement Durable (Haiti DEED) project is to initiate broad scale investments in sustainable natural resource management at the scale and density needed to produce future positive landscape level changes in environmental, infrastructure, and economic vulnerability in the selected watersheds. The two initial watersheds are Limbe in the North Department and Montrouis in the West along with their greater market/enterprise shed. This will serve as a replicable example for future projects that will expand into other watersheds. Importantly the DEED activity will focus almost all of its efforts in the target watersheds so as to avoid dilution of impact and enact change at the landscape level. USAID expects biophysical changes in the geographically defined watersheds and broad economic interventions in the market-shed.

The activities will encourage innovative approaches that emphasize enterprise development (especially producer groups) as the basis for resource (financial, social, and natural) management. Physical initiatives could include: production and marketing of high value tree crops, watershed management, soil conservation, alternative energy source development and intensified production in irrigated flat lands. The exploration and promotion of alternatives livelihoods such as: tourism (and producing for tourist sites), handicrafts, fishing (tied to reef and mangrove protection), aquaculture, livestock and others is also envisioned. The activities will involve strong collaboration with the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture for technical assistance, policy formulation, and training, as well as with producer and exporter associations and other private sector entities.

The program approach is based on the establishment of Private Public sector Alliances (PPAs) and grants to Producer Groups (PGs), technically reinforced by private service providers.

SECTION II. Significant Accomplishments during the Quarter

The first quarter of the DEED project was focused on project start-up activities. Once the project contract was awarded, Chief of Party (COP), Timothy Aston, along with Director of Administration and Finance (DAF), Pierre-Richard Charles spent some time in Bethesda, Maryland becoming reoriented with DAI and USAID. The DAI team was able to hit the ground running on February 6, 2008, when the Chief of Party, Timothy Aston mobilized to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Start-up activities included: administrative startup, procurement, contracting local staff, and Post Award Orientation meeting with USAID. There were also some short term assignments initiated during this period to complement start-up activities. The first Quarter focused largely on locating and getting the project offices and staff set-up so that momentum toward technical results could build from a solid foundation for the remaining course of the project.

A. Administrative

Following award of the DEED project to DAI, Timothy Aston, DEED COP, and Pierre-Richard Charles, DEED DAF, were brought to the DAI Home Office (HO) to undergo three days and five days, respectively, of reorientation to DAI, managing USAID contracts, financial and accounting policies and procedures, our approach to project implementation, and the wealth of support provided by the HO. Home Office project start-up team, Business Manager, Bethany Bluett, and Project Coordinator, Beatrice Ridoré, began many of the administrative aspects of starting the project.

Following the removal of the ban on to Haiti due to Carnival Celebrations, the DAI DEED team traveled to Haiti to launch startup activities. Chief of Party, Timothy Aston, mobilized to Haiti on February 6, 2008 and the two Regional Coordinators, Nicholas Hobgood and Martin Bush, soon followed suit on February 7, 2008 and February 10, 2008, respectively. On February 11, 2008, HO project start-up team arrived in Haiti to join the DAI DEED project staff in order to provide them administrative support.

Within the first couple of days of being in country project bank accounts were opened and technical staff was contacted to begin technical work, including the initiation of drafting the DEED work plan. Other tasks that went underway during the first few weeks of being on the ground in Haiti included: visiting potential office spaces; setting up temporary office space quarters between both Haiti MSME's office and Hotel Villa Creole, hiring the Office Manager and drivers, obtaining quotes for various procurements and establishing the financial cycle for the project. All were key activities for project start up.

Locating office space for all three office locations (Port-au-Prince, Montrouis and Limbe) in an accessible, safe area took considerable time and many options were exhausted. Three permanent offices have been located in Bourdon, Montrouis, and Morne Rouge, near Limbe. Leases have been prepared and signed for all three locations.

Office equipment and furniture have been identified, bids have been requested and received and orders placed. Quotes were obtained for vehicles, a vehicle waiver was obtained from USAID/Haiti and motorcycles and vehicles have been ordered. Generators and IT network equipment has been shipped.

The organizational structure for the project was established during the proposal process and the staff has two-thirds of the long term technical positions filled with exceptional experts who will help to achieve the numerous results for DEED.

The first quarter has been challenging given the number of administrative tasks needed to be arranged and delay of entry into Haiti. Time has been, and will continue to be taken to ensure the necessary groundwork is established to create a strong foundation for the DEED activities to be successful over the project's life span.

Initial voucher format was submitted and approved by USAID

During the next quarter, the DEED team will work on the following key administrative issues:

- Move into project offices
- Continue with the setup of the project offices and premises;
- Train sub-office administrative staff
- Complete the Policies and Procedures Manual to guide project office operations;
- Complete recruitment of technical staff

B. Technical

DAI submitted a grants manual and a chronology of dates for project deliverables. The grants manual is being revised as per USAID comments and the new version will attempt to include provision for PPAs.

After a joint review of the deliverables with USAID, it was agreed that DAI would revise the deliverable dates as well as the first year's milestones. The purpose of this revision is to reset the deliverable back in sync with the milestones and to compensate for the slower than anticipated project startup.

The key technical aspect of the DEED project began with the initial steps for the preparation of the First Year Work Plan. Activities included two rapid rural appraisals, one in Montrouis watershed and one in the Limbe watershed, carried out by DEED resident staff. The purpose of these was to provide some initial "ground-truthing" pending the implementation of a more methodical baseline assessment of the watersheds.

Under the direction of DEED DCOP, Frisner Pierre, DAI fielded a 25 person baseline survey team that spent the entire month of March on the watersheds. Field work, including more than

500 individual family interviews and 200 plus CBO meetings, was completed by the end of March.

Major areas of assessment were:

- Natural watershed characteristics
- Biodiversity
- Land tenure
- Agricultural production/land use
- Soil fertility management
- Jatropha
- Fishing
- House hold socio-economics
- Inventorying and diagnostic of CBOs
- Inventorying an initial assessment of irrigation systems
- Analysis of constraints and opportunities for productive NRM.

Baseline reports for both watersheds will be available during April. While not a formal deliverable, the DEED Baseline survey will provide the initial informational basis for work planning, program design, as well as monitoring and evaluation of results.

DAI Natural Resource Management Practice Manager, Andrew Watson, and Contracts Manager, Stephen Macleod, flew to Haiti in order to join DAI DEED project staff key personnel's participation in the Post Award Orientation with USAID on February 21, 2008. Details of the project and what would be expected of the team took place during this meeting.

DEED organized trips for Julie Kunen, LAC biodiversity chief, to the Arcadin islands and to the Limbe coastal area. As a result her findings and at the request of USAID, DAI's NRM practice manager, Andrew Watson, carried out a short term technical assignment to carry out a biodiversity threats analysis to assist USAID in allocating biodiversity earmark and provide next steps and to assist the project in finalizing its biodiversity conservation priorities and tailoring DEED implementation activities to reducing threats. The draft report is due first week of April.

DEED staff have met jointly with USAID head of EG, Alex Deprez and TDY CTO-designate, Chris Abrams with the Minister and Secretary of State for Agriculture as well as several groups of private and public stakeholders in both the Montrouis and Limbe areas.

Deed staff have also held numerous meetings with groups of stakeholders, CBOs, GOH officials, private sector leaders, and donors. The purpose of these meeting has been threefold:

- To introduce the DEED team and project not as a project, but a set of activities designed to improve watershed livelihoods while preserving the environment
- Identifying potential entities and activities for possible implementation beginning in Q2, subject to the outcomes of the stakeholder workshops.

- Identify common issues, concerns, and potential opportunities for forming various levels of watershed committees

C. Summary of activities completed by result

Result 1 DEED Project successfully launched and stakeholder interaction plan developed

- Key stakeholders have been identified in each watershed and informed about the project;
- Formal meetings held with local GOH officials including Mayors, BAC Directors, Asecs and Casecs;
- Contact made with other projects and programs operating in the watersheds;
- Rapid socio-economic appraisal of watershed communities (Sondeo technique) completed;
- Field work of detailed baseline study completed in both watersheds.
- Year 1 workplan and detailed plans for the achievement of deliverables and milestones being revised.

Result 2 Community-based producer groups, associations and enterprises developed and strengthened

- Producer groups and enterprises have been identified and contacted;
- MSEs and potential Service Providers have been identified and contacted in the marketshed zones;
- Assessment of capacity building requirements of Producer Groups has commenced

Result 3 Alternatives to hillside farming (area under improved management) increased

- Hillside farming techniques in the different micro-watersheds have been assessed;
- Strategies for introducing alternative agricultural techniques are under review;

Result 4 Communities' natural resources base protected and production increased

- Initial priority biodiversity areas have been identified;
- Threats to biodiversity in the two watersheds have been identified and a report written and submitted to USAID
- A preliminary reconnaissance of the marine and coastal environments adjacent to the watersheds has been conducted, in cooperation with USAID/W biodiversity staff.

Result 5 GOH watershed management policies facilitate resource management and are coordinated between ministries and with local governments

- Legislation related to watershed management has been collected and reviewed;

Result 6 Watershed restoration plan developed and implemented by watershed stakeholders

- Watershed stakeholders have been identified and preliminary discussions held.

Result 7 Alliances established with the private sector to leverage USAID resources

- Private sector contacts are being established and initial discussions regarding possible PPA arrangements held;
- Grants manual and PPA methodologies are being revised.

Result 8 Crisis modifier/rapid response mechanism

- No activities under this result have yet been taken.

D. Next quarter activities

Building on these initial activities, DEED will work on the following technical activities during the next Quarter:

- Submit draft First Year Work Plan to USAID;
- Submit revised performance and milestone plan
- Complete the Baseline Field Survey Reports;
- Develop biodiversity and Natural Resource Management Baseline materials for DEED PMP;
- Undertake several assessments as detailed in the Work Plan
- Conduct Stakeholder and Project Launch Work Shops
- Develop Action Plans detailing Year One Activities in microcatchments
- Initiate participatory community assessments and mapping
- Identify and train first tranche of facilitators and service providers

The table on the following page shows the milestones and deliverables that will be achieved during the next quarter.

Deliverables and Milestones to be achieved during Quarter 2

Result 1: DEED Project successfully launched and stakeholder interaction plan developed
D 1.1.1 Workshop report including participant's list
D 1.1.2 Action plan for collaboration/ conflict avoidance
D 1.1.3 Modifications to Work/milestone plan based upon workshop and a donor conflict mitigation strategy
D 1.2.1 Community identification assessment and map
D.1.3.1 Facilitators training programs and rating forms and survey methodology
M 1.1.1. Convene workshop to identify areas of collaboration and produce action plan
Result 2: Community-based producer groups, associations and enterprises developed and strengthened
D 2.3.1 Market constraints in watershed assessment and production baselines
M 2.3.1 Assessment conducted to identify potential business linkages and identify market constraints to targeted watershed production
Result 3: Alternatives to Hillside farming (area under improved management) increased
M.3.3.1. Ten potential hosts of tenant farmers identified each year
M 3.5.1 Updated maps of irrigation/drainage systems
Result 4: Communities' natural resources base protected and production increased
D 4.3.2 MOU with MarChE contractor
D 4.3.1 Plan for using targeted incentives and corresponding grants manual
D 4.4.1 Action Plan for integrating GOH ministry staff
M 4.3.1 Collaboration with MarChE contractor formalized
Result 5: GOH watershed management policies facilitate resource management and are coordinated between ministries and with local governments
D 5.2.1 Signed agreement with CNIGS and E.U.
Result 7: Alliances established with the private sector to leverage USAID resources
No deliverables or milestones planned for this period
Result 8: Crisis modifier/rapid response mechanism
No deliverables or milestones planned for this period